

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217608

TOSEC 4

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BONN LONDON PARIS USUN
NEW YORK FROM MOSCOW 05 NOV 73:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13838

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, UR, US, XF

SUBJ: SCHEEL'S TALKS WITH SOVIETS ON ME

1. IN GIVING US A FILL-IN ON SCHEEL VISIT TO
MOSCOW OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 4, FRG EMBOFF NOTED
SEVERAL POINTS OF INTEREST ABOUT SCHEEL'S CONVER-
SATIONS WITH KOSYGIN AND GROMYKO ON ME.

2. SOVIET SIDE WAS QUITE CRITICAL OF UNITED STATES.
GROMYKO REFERRED TO ALERT AS IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION
AND SAID THAT USSR HAD TAKEN CORRESPONDING MESAURES
IN CONNECTION WITH U.S. ALERT. SOVIETS ALSO CRITI-
CIZED ALLEGED U.S. LENIENCY TOWARD ISRAEL. ON THE
OTHER HAND, SOVIET SIDE EXPRESSED POSITIVE VIEW OF
ATTITUDE OF WESTERN EUROPEANS ON ME, AND KOSYGIN NOTED
THE ADVISABILITY OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TAKING ACCOUNT OF
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THEIR OIL NEEDS, AS DISTINGUISHED FROM U.S. NEEDS.

GROMYKO WAS SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE ABOUT U.S.-SOVIET COOPERATION IN SECURITY COUNCIL, SAYING THERE WAS A NEED TO ACT QUICKLY.

3. GROMYKO ARGUED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY BUT, IN A VAGUE RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY SCHEEL, HE DID NOT PRECONDITION THEM DIRECTLY ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO OCTOBER 22 LINES. FRG EMBOFF GOT IMPRESSION THAT, WHILE CONTINUING TO TAKE CUE FROM EGYPT, SOVIETS DID NOT SEEM LOCKED INTO ARGUING THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL MUST PRECEDE NEGOTIATIONS. ON NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, SOVIETS REITERATED WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN "APPROPRIATE AUSPICES" BUT SHED NO LIGHT ON WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND.

4. ON PALESTINIANS, GROMYKO SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THEY SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS OR, IF THEY DID, WHO WOULD SPEAK FOR THEM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT PALESTINIAN PROBLEMS MUST BE FULLY WEIGHTED IN NEGOTIATION PROCESS.

5. FRG EMOFF, WHO PARTICIPATED IN MOST OF THE SESSIONS INVOLVING GROMYKO, SAID THAT SOVIET APPROACH TO ME SITUATION WAS NOT PESSIMISTIC, ALTHOUGH HE FELT THAT "OPTIMISTIC" WOULD BE TOO STRONG A WORD FOR IT.DUBS UNQUOTE RUSH

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